

Solid Waste Grants FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

The following questions came up during recent discussions at our Grant Workshops in Knoxville, Jackson, and Nashville during the week of August 14, 2006.

RECYCLING EQUIPMENT

Is it possible to purchase items from a state bid listing for used oil grant the same as other items, such as trucks? **AND Can the State gather bids for recycling equipment so that counties can just choose the vendor of the piece of equipment they need saving them time in the bid collection and expedite the grant process? Though this is possible, it would be very difficult to manage from the state side. The sheer number of manufactures and specifications available would necessitate continuous up date and considerable manpower to maintain and manage and would not prove cost effective. The above-suggested process might also exclude local companies that may provide a better deal.**

Since the recycling equipment grant refers to the Regional Solid Waste Plan and to the Annual Progress Report submitted by the solid waste region, where do municipalities in the region report their equipment needs? **In Section III, Part II B (Questions 133-137), Part III (Questions 143-147), or Part V and Part VI (Questions 166, 168-170,) or Part VII (Questions 175-178). Parts V – VII are narrative in nature and may only discuss the situation and not specifically the equipment. Municipalities working with the region should request their grant needs to the region as the region prepares their yearly submission of the Annual Progress Report. If grant needs become needed after the Annual Progress Report is submitted, an amendment can be filled with TDEC by letter or by completing the above sections with a signature of the solid waste region's planning board chair signature.**

Can a grant for truck scales be considered in the future? **Yes. Recycling equipment grants may be used for the purchase of key recycling equipment including truck scales. This grant probably would not cover the entire amount of the scales and applicants would need to have the match and additional funding to completely pay for the equipment.**

Can repairs for a pit-burner or air-curtain destructor used in construction and demolition waste reduction be covered under the recycling equipment grant? **No. Recycling equipment grants may only be used to purchase key pieces of equipment not fund operation and maintenance costs.**

Can the recycling equipment grants be used on structures? **No. The Recycling Equipment grant is to be used for key pieces of recycling equipment only.**

Can grants be used to fund turning used cooking oil into diesel? **Currently the only grant available for recycling/waste reduction purposes is the recycling equipment grant. This grant may only be used to purchase key pieces for recycling operations. The maximum grant is \$25,000 with a match required by the grantee.**

Will the \$25,000 ceiling on recycling equipment grants be raised? **The \$25,000 is an amount set by policy and generally is sufficient to fund most recycling equipment purchases, To increase the grant amount, would mean fewer applications would be funded each year.**

Can recycling equipment grants be used to purchase new machinery to replace unsafe machinery which still has pro rata time left? **The recycling equipment grant may also be used to upgrade recycling equipment. In upgrading situations, equipment may be traded in on new equipment, but would have to be approved by the State in advance where the previous grant term had not expired.**

Who should be the applicant if a non-profit organization wants to receive a recycling equipment grant? **Non-profit organizations may apply for recycling equipment grants themselves if they have funding for the match. If not, the county or the municipality could apply and have equipment located at the non-profit recyclers business. However, the local government would retain ownership of the equipment until the State's interest in the equipment is satisfied. All reimbursement requests would come from and be processed back to the local government.**

PAINT CONSOLIDATION

Are Gaylord boxes now available for collecting and storing oil based paints? **Counties wishing to pre-collect oil based paint must first be approved to collect these materials. After the county has been approved, they can contact Paula Mitchell at 615-532-9265 and she will arrange with our contractor, Clean Harbors, for Gaylord boxes to be dropped off. Paula will also arrange for the "milk-run" pickups as well.**

Are the household hazardous waste (HHW) mobile events getting out of the latex paint collection business? **No, however, paint, electronics, used oil, anti-freeze, and batteries account for a large share by weight of material collected at these mobile collection events. As these items are not hazardous in the same way that pesticides, elemental mercury, etc. are, we are asking the counties to manage these waste streams year round as there are a number of vendors who will take these materials without charging the county. This will stretch the event funding to cover more counties for the truly hazardous items like pesticides, mercury, etc. Paint will still be taken at these events in decreasing amounts as the counties work to collect and process the paint year round.**

Since the State is asking the counties to manage the paint waste stream, how is the management different between latex paint and oil base paint? **Latex paint that is still in good condition can be used as is. Consolidation consists of filtering out lumps, blending similar colors and in larger programs, adding color pigments and other additives to improve quality. Paint that cannot be consolidated due to quality can be dried with kitty litter, wood chips or other absorbent material and then safely landfilled. Oil based paint will still be collected at mobile HHW events. Because oil based paint is toxic and flammable it should be directed away from the landfill. The toxicity comes from potential lead in pre-1978 paint and the many solvents used in the manufacturing of the oil based paint.**

If a solid waste planning region establishes a used paint collection facility, would the State provide support to pick up non-latex paints that may be obtained by chance. **Yes. The State's household hazardous waste contractor will pick up on the way to a mobile collection event or through "milk-run" pick-ups to several counties.**

USED OIL

Does the used oil grant require a match in the same manner that the recycling equipment grant does? **No. The used oil grant does not require a match by the grantee.**

Are there specific guidelines for the purchase or construction of the used oil canopies? **The maximum funding for a canopy is \$2,000. The canopy is intended to cover the used oil collection tanks and secondary containment pad. The purpose is to prevent rainwater from filling the collection tank or containment pad and allowing spillage of oil into the**

environment. The canopy's construction would have to allow for the proper emptying of the collection tank.

Who is eligible for the Used Oil Grant? **Cities, counties, solid waste authorities, counties having a metropolitan form of government (local governments), non-profit recyclers and certain for-profit agencies are eligible for funding consideration. For-profit agencies considered are automotive service, maintenance, or parts; agricultural equipment sales and service; and farmers' co-ops. Applicants must be located in an under-served area: a. An under-served area is any area not within a 10 mile radius of an existing used oil collection site, OR b. An area where the population averages more than 150 persons per square mile would qualify. (2) For-Profit Applicants meeting one of the above requirements and: a. whose business is not attached to a residence, and b. who own their own property.**

Can county facilities like school bus buildings, dog pound, public works buildings, etc. that are with-in a served area, where used oil collection site is near by, apply for a used oil grant to purchase a used oil heater or other equipment for managing used oil collection? **Yes in some cases. Since the used oil grant was designed to target Do it Yourselfers (DIY's), new collection sites are selected when a need is present. TDEC looks for sites that are no closer than 10 miles apart except when high population density may necessitate. On a case-by-case basis, TDEC may award grants for equipment purchase if used in close proximity to an existing collection site.**

RECYCLING REBATE

Why was the recycling rebate amounts cut almost in half this year compared to last year? **Funding for both recycling equipment and recycling rebates was reduced due to a lack of funds in the Solid Waste Management Fund.**

The recycling rebate amount is based on 150% of the money allocated for the recycling equipment grant for a particular fiscal year. For fiscal year 2007 only \$200,000 was allocated for recycling equipment grants. A county's rebate is then calculated comparing a county's waste generation to the total generation of the 11 largest waste generators. The funds are further allocated to cities based on population.

Are counties and municipalities that receive the recycling rebate required to match the funds in order to receive them? **Yes. Recycling rebates require a 50% match, or dollar for dollar. However, recycling rebates may be used for any recycling purpose including employee salaries, equipment purchases, educational materials of all types, and to partially fund contractual obligations for recycling pick-up.**

WASTE TIRE

Explain who gets the \$1 tire pre-disposal fee. **Tire dealers collect \$1 when new tires are purchased. Ninety cents (\$0.90) of every dollar collected is sent to the Tennessee Department of Revenue and they transfer those fees to the Department of Environment and Conservation for deposit in the Solid Waste Management Fund. Ten cents (\$0.10) of every dollar is retained by the tire dealer to cover expenses for preparing the paperwork and remitting fees to the Department of Revenue.**

Where there is a limit on the number of tires accepted by the county, how should any excess tires be handled? **As there is an expense to managing the waste tire program, excess tires should be managed at a cost determined by the county and charged back to the person bringing in the tires. The fee counties may charge should not exceed what it costs to manage the program, above what the county receives in grants from the State.**

Will there be a regional waste tire clean-up program? **The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation has developed a new grant that will be offered in the Fall 2006 to counties with illegal tire dumps identified and prioritized by the Solid Waste Environmental Field Offices. These grants will allow counties to take bids for clean up activities at a particular site. Grants will vary depending on the quality of tires at the sites and condition of tires. No match is required.**

GENERAL

Would in-kind matches ever be considered in the future? **Currently there is not a plan to allow in-kind matches.**

What are the new matching percents for each county? **The percentages are being recalculated and will be posted on this website shortly and sent to the interested parties.**

Is the State going to solicit a waste reduction grant this year? **Waste reduction grants will not be offered in FY 2007 due to a lack of funding.**

Since the State is not soliciting the waste reduction grant this year, will the money for it be combined with the recycling equipment grant? **No. There is not any money available to allocate for the waste reduction grant so it cannot be combined with the recycling equipment grant.**

Can counties speak with raters to find out what they want? **No. The applicants can call Ann McDowell or Larry Christley to help answer any questions about the narratives. Grants submissions that thoroughly answer narrative questions, give a good picture of the project and how it will be used, and do not contain reference errors stand a good chance for selection. Grant narratives do not have to be wordy but should be concise, to the point and convey key concepts.**